

yt-dlp

How to use yt-dlp to preserve video and audio

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How to preserve videos

Prerequisites

1. Download yt-dlp with the package manager of your choice. Examples:

```
sudo wget https://github.com/yt-dlp/yt-dlp/releases/latest/download/yt-dlp -O /usr/local/bin/yt-dlp
sudo chmod a+rx /usr/local/bin/yt-dlp

python3 -m pip install -U yt-dlp

yay yt-dlp

sudo apt install yt-dlp

sudo nala install yt-dlp
```

2. Download ffmpeg with the package manager of your choice. Examples:

```
yay ffmpeg

sudo apt install ffmpeg

sudo nala install ffmpeg
```

3. Download optional dependencies if necessary from [here](#)
4. Make a directory where your config files will sit
5. Create your first config. Example:

```
# best video and audio
-f bestvideo+bestaudio

# Just go on even if everything burns
-ciw

# verbose
-v

# Thumbnail
```

```
--write-thumbnail
--embed-thumbnail

# Add chapters
--embed-chapters

# Embed info json
--write-info-json
--embed-info-json

# Metadata
--embed-metadata

# Description
--write-description

# Comments
#--write-comments

# Mark Video as watched. May count towards view count.
--mark-watched

# Merge downloaded video and audio into a mkv file
--merge-output-format mkv
```

6. More file examples can be found [here](#)

Time to archive

How to archive an entire YouTube channel

1. Create a directory where you want your files to be
2. Download or create the necessary files to create directories, move files and download videos. Examples:

```
#!/bin/sh

if [ ! -d "video" ] ; then
  mkdir video && mkdir metadata && mkdir thumbnails && mkdir descriptions && echo "Created
directories"
fi
```

```
#!/bin/bash

if compgen -G "*.mkv" > /dev/null ; then
  mv *.mkv video/ && mv *.webp thumbnails/ && mv *.description descriptions/ && mv *.info.json
metadata/ && echo "Moved files"
fi
```

```
#!/bin/bash

yt-dlp --config-location /srv/dev-disk-by-uuid-fa1e36be-9ccc-4549-8734-
fe6117b30317/croni/andre/andre/Archive/yt-dlp/yt-dlp_video.conf --download-archive
youtube_backup_downloaded.txt --yes-playlist
'https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLeEbifL6wH9okMEgTQP459RcTrjBWkF_b'
```

3. Execute these files however you want. I personally would recommend to set up a cron job to periodically download new videos. Example:

```
nohup ./backup.sh > backup.log &
```

4. If you execute the command above your only way to know what yt-dlp is currently doing is to tail the log with `tail -f backup.log`

5. While waiting for the download to finish you can create the necessary directories to organize all your downloaded files. Example:

```
#!/bin/sh

if [ ! -d "video" ] ; then
mkdir video && mkdir metadata && mkdir thumbnails && mkdir descriptions && echo "Created
directories"
fi
```

6. When the download is finished and you created the directories it is time to move them to their dedicated directory. Example:

```
#!/bin/bash

if compgen -G "*.mkv" > /dev/null ; then
mv *.mkv video/ && mv *.webp thumbnails/ && mv *.description descriptions/ && mv *.info.json
metadata/ && echo "Moved files"
fi
```

7. You successfully archived an entire YouTube channel ☑

Tips

- Make your files executable with `sudo chmod +x file.sh`
- You can execute the files with `./file.sh`
- This guide can be adapted to download playlist and even single videos
 - If you only want to download one video then remove `--yes-playlist`

How to preserve audio

Prerequisites

1. Download yt-dlp with the package manager of your choice. Examples:

```
sudo wget https://github.com/yt-dlp/yt-dlp/releases/latest/download/yt-dlp -O /usr/local/bin/yt-dlp
sudo chmod a+rx /usr/local/bin/yt-dlp

python3 -m pip install -U yt-dlp

yay yt-dlp

sudo apt install yt-dlp

sudo nala install yt-dlp
```

2. Download ffmpeg with the package manager of your choice. Examples:

```
yay ffmpeg

sudo apt install ffmpeg

sudo nala install ffmpeg
```

3. Download optional dependencies if necessary from [here](#)
4. Make a directory where your config files will sit
5. Create your first config. Example:

```
# Uses best audio
-f bestaudio

# Don't stop even if not perfect
-ciw

# verbose
-v

# Extracts the audio
```



```
--extract-audio

# Uses best quality
--audio-quality 0

# Makes it a mp3
--audio-format mp3

# Thumbnail
--write-thumbnail
--embed-thumbnail

# Embed info json
--write-info-json
--embed-info-json

# Metadata
--embed-metadata

# Description
--write-description

# Mark Video as watched. May count towards view count.
--mark-watched
```

6. More file examples can be found [here](#)

Time to archive

How to archive an entire YouTube channel

1. Create a directory where you want your files to be
2. **Download** or create the necessary files to create directories, move files and download videos. Examples:

```
#!/bin/sh

if [ ! -d "audio" ] ; then
mkdir audio && mkdir metadata && mkdir thumbnails && mkdir descriptions && echo "Created
directories"
fi
```

```
#!/bin/bash

if compgen -G "*.mp3" > /dev/null ; then
mv *.mp3 audio/ && mv *.webp thumbnails/ && mv *.description descriptions/ && mv *.info.json
metadata/ && echo "Moved files"
fi
```

```
#!/bin/bash

yt-dlp --config-location /srv/dev-disk-by-uuid-fa1e36be-9ccc-4549-8734-
fe6117b30317/croni/andre/andre/Archive/yt-dlp/yt-dlp_music.conf --download-archive
youtube_backup_downloaded.txt --yes-playlist
'https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLLeBifL6wH9okMEgTQP459RcTrjBWkF_b'
```

3. Execute these files however you want. I personally would recommend to set up a cron job to periodically download new videos. Example:

```
nohup ./backup.sh > backup.log &
```

4. If you execute the command above your only way to know what yt-dlp is currently doing is to tail the log with `tail -f backup.log`

5. While waiting for the download to finish you can create the necessary directories to organize all your downloaded files. Example:

```
#!/bin/sh

if [ ! -d "audio" ] ; then
mkdir audio && mkdir metadata && mkdir thumbnails && mkdir descriptions && echo "Created
directories"
fi
```

6. When the download is finished and you created the directories it is time to move them to their dedicated directory. Example:

```
#!/bin/bash

if compgen -G "*.mp3" > /dev/null ; then
mv *.mkv audio/ && mv *.webp thumbnails/ && mv *.description descriptions/ && mv *.info.json
metadata/ && echo "Moved files"
fi
```

7. You successfully archived an entire YouTube channel ☑

Tips

- Make your files executable with `sudo chmod +x file.sh`
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